



P.B.5818 - Patentlaan 2
2280 HV Rijswijk (ZH)
+31 70 340 2040
TX 31651 epo nl
FAX +31 70 340 3016

Europäisches
Patentamt

Zweigstelle
in Den Haag
Recherchen-
abteilung

European
Patent Office

Branch at
The Hague
Search
division

Office européen
des brevets

Département à
La Haye
Division de la
recherche

Wolff, Felix, Dr.
Kutzenberger & Wolff
Theodor-Heuss-Ring 23
50668 Köln
ALLEMAGNE

Uk
Bw
08. OKT. 2003

Datum/Date

06. 10. 2003

Zeichen/Ref./Réf. CI0057EP	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°. 02021022.5
Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire CFS Palazzolo	

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits

- the European search report
- the declaration under Rule 45 EPC
- the partial European search report under Rule 45 EPC
- the supplementary European search report concerning the international application under Article 157(2) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application. Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division :

Abstract

Title

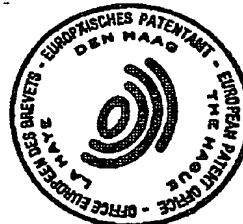
Figure

The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published with the abstract, since the Search Division considers that it better characterises the invention than the one indicated by the applicant.

Figure:

Additional copy(copies) of the documents cited in the European search report.



REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



ABSTRACT / ZUSAMMENFASSUNG / ABREGE

02021022.5

The invention relates to a sealable packaging container (1) comprising a packaging tray (2) and a packaging lid (3) each having a circumferential area and wherein the area of the lid is larger than the area of the tray (4). The invention further relates to a packaging machine (10) having an upper part (11) and a lower part (12) arranged vertically moveable against each other and means for opening, evacuating and sealing a packaging container (1). Finally the invention relates to a method of sealing a packaging container (1) in this packaging machine (10).



CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

- As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

- Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

- None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-6

Subject I (claims 1-6) relates to a sealable packaging container.

2. Claims: 7-13

Subject II (claims 7-13) relates to a packaging machine having an upper part and a lower part arranged vertically moveable against each other.

3. Claim : 14

Subject III (claim 14) relates to a method of sealing a sealable container which comprises a lid and a tray.



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 5 702 743 A (WELLS CINDIE M) 30 December 1997 (1997-12-30) * column 4, line 47 – line 65; figures *	1, 3	B65D81/20
X	US 3 384 263 A (DANIEL BERNSTEIN) 21 May 1968 (1968-05-21) * column 2, line 38 – line 56; figures *	1, 4	
X	US 4 687 117 A (TERAUDS OSKAR R) 18 August 1987 (1987-08-18) * the whole document *	1	
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 016, no. 226 (M-1254), 26 May 1992 (1992-05-26) & JP 04 044926 A (SHIKOKU KAKOKI CO LTD), 14 February 1992 (1992-02-14) * abstract *	7, 8, 14	
X	US 4 409 252 A (BUSCHKENS GUIDO ET AL) 11 October 1983 (1983-10-11) * the whole document *	7, 8, 14	
A	WO 00 15431 A (PEDERSEN STEEN) 23 March 2000 (2000-03-23) * figures *	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
A	US 4 221 102 A (LANG HANS-JOERG ET AL) 9 September 1980 (1980-09-09) * the whole document *	7	B65D B65B
A	EP 0 214 372 A (BOSCH GMBH ROBERT) 18 March 1987 (1987-03-18) * the whole document *	7	
A	US 4 154 044 A (LANG HANS-JORG) 15 May 1979 (1979-05-15) * the whole document *	7	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
6	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
	THE HAGUE	18 July 2003	Fournier, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 02 02 1022

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

18-07-2003

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
✓ US 5702743	A	30-12-1997	US	5520939 A	28-05-1996	
			US	5795604 A	18-08-1998	
✓ US 3384263	A	21-05-1968	NONE			
✓ US 4687117	A	18-08-1987	NONE			
✓ JP 04044926	A	14-02-1992	NONE			
✓ US 4409252	A	11-10-1983	NONE			
✓ WO 0015431	A	23-03-2000	AU	756593 B2	16-01-2003	
			AU	5617899 A	03-04-2000	
			BR	9913702 A	05-06-2001	
			CA	2343082 A1	23-03-2000	
			CN	1320075 T	31-10-2001	
			DE	29924308 U1	19-09-2002	
			WO	0015431 A1	23-03-2000	
			EA	2567 B1	27-06-2002	
			EP	1115572 A1	18-07-2001	
			JP	2002524359 T	06-08-2002	
			NO	20011073 A	04-05-2001	
			PL	346638 A1	25-02-2002	
			ZA	200102038 A	12-03-2002	
✓ US 4221102	A	09-09-1980	NONE			
✓ EP 0214372	A	18-03-1987	DE	3524926 A1	15-01-1987	
			EP	0214372 A1	18-03-1987	
			ES	2000495 A6	01-03-1988	
			JP	62016318 A	24-01-1987	
✓ US 4154044	A	15-05-1979	DE	2636003 A1	16-02-1978	
			AT	359925 B	10-12-1980	
			AT	584177 A	15-04-1980	
			BE	857660 A1	01-12-1977	
			CH	620845 A5	31-12-1980	
			DK	341077 A , B,	12-02-1978	
			FR	2361273 A1	10-03-1978	
			GB	1577162 A	22-10-1980	